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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 4, 2007

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FATHER-SON COUNTERFEITING TEAM MUST PAY FOR CRIME

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that DONZELL RUDOLPH, 54, of Sacramento, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell, Jr. to passing counterfeit currency at the Thunder Valley Casino in Roseville, California. Last month, on April 6, 2007, DONZELL RUDOLPH's son, ERNEST J. RUDOLPH, 35, of Sacramento, was sentenced by Judge Burrell to 46 months in federal prison for manufacturing counterfeit currency.

This case was the product of an extensive investigation by the United States Secret Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Anne Pings, who prosecuted the case, the father and son were caught on videotape passing counterfeit bills at Thunder Valley Casino. Subsequently, on September 9, 2005, agents executed a search warrant at ERNEST RUDOLPH's residence in Sacramento.   After barricading himself inside for several hours, ERNEST RUDOLPH threw the computer he used to make the counterfeit bills out the window.   The clothes the father and son were wearing on the Thunder Valley video were seized by agents during the search of their residences.

The Secret Service ultimately determined that ERNEST RUDOLPH manufactured approximately $50,000 in counterfeit currency, including those bills passed by his father RONZELL at Thunder Valley Casino. ERNEST RUDOLPH and others passed the manufactured

bills at businesses throughout the Sacramento community and at the State Fair. As part of his

sentence, Judge Burrell ordered ERNEST RUDOLPH to pay restitution to those businesses in

the amount of $45,900.

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